

a serious lapse in not bringing the matter before the House. The question of the power of the Government to issue a notification is not challenged. We realise that they have the inherent right under the Act. But the point is why they did not inform the House at the earliest opportunity. Lastly, if Shri Madhu Limaye had not invited the attention of the House and the Government, perhaps, they would not have come forward with a statement. What is the answer to that point?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I have already pointed out to the hon. House that this order was passed under the Essential Commodities Act. According to the provisions of that Act, the notification has to be laid on the Table at the earliest possible opportunity. I was expecting that it could be placed on the Table this morning. But because some number was not available from the press, it could not be done today morning. As soon as the number was available, it was placed on the Table. I can assure the House that it was not intended to show any disrespect to the House and at the earliest possible opportunity I have taken the suggestion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before you go on to the next item, I want to bring one point to your notice (Interruptions).

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: He said that it was not his intention. We can take that. But what is the difficulty on his part in expressing an unqualified apology for it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessary.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Why? He should have come before the House. This is an offence against the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has explained the position to the House.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: This is an offence against the House. You have to reprimand the Minister. You have to pass some remarks against it.

17.40 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. MEETRUT INCIDENTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): I beg to lay the statement regarding Meerut incidents on the Table of the House. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T. A. Pai to lay the statement on the Table of the House. . . . (Interruptions).

The Home Minister has placed a statement regarding Meerut incidents on the Table of the House. I asked him to lay it on the Table of the House. It will be circulated.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, यह क्या रखा जा रहा है ? हम इस पर चर्चा की मांग कर रहे हैं ।

सभापति महोदय : वह आप फिर कीजिएगा ।

Shri T.A. Pai to make a statement regarding acquisition of Alcock Ashdown Company Limited. You lay it on the Table of the House. (Interruptions).

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : यह बयान किस चीज के ऊपर हो रहे हैं ? इन्हें ले न किया जाय, एक एक बयान को पढ़ा जाय । हम लोगों को दिलचस्पी है इन सारे विषयों में, इन को मंत्री महोदय पढ़ें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is reading it out.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Unless the House grants him the permission to lay it on the Table of the House, it will have to be read out.

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka): The Home Minister is making an important statement. It is not in the Order Paper. He makes it only because it is a matter of importance and urgency. Let him read it out so that we may understand what it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The statement is regarding Meerut incidents. He has placed it on the Table of the House. (Interruptions). I am not going to allow any questions on that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Let him read it out.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है । आप को स्मरण होगा जब दंगों की बात हुई थी तो यह कहा गया था कि इलाहाबाद और मेरठ दोनों जगहों के दंगों के बारे में गृह मंत्री महोदय वक्तव्य दें और स्पीकर महोदय ने इसी तरह का निर्देश जहां तक मुझे स्मरण है गृह मंत्रालय को दिया था। लेकिन अभी आप कह रहे हैं कि वक्तव्य केवल मेरठ के बारे में है । तो क्या यह समझा जाय कि इलाहाबाद के बारे में अलग वक्तव्य आएगा?

समापति महोदय : यह तो आप उन से मालूम कीजिए ।

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : जो स्पीकर की तरफ से सूचना मिली थी उस में मेरठ के संबंध में ही यह कहा गया था और आज का दिन निश्चय किया गया था। फिर जब हम

ने पता लगा या कि किस समय तो कहा गया कि पांच बजे के बाद । तो पांच बजे से ही मैं इसी उद्देश्य से यहां बैठा हुआ हूं। अगर आप के पास समय हो तो मुझे पढ़ने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं है ।

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): Sir, Government view with profound concern the most unfortunate disturbances which have occurred in some parts of Meerut Town from the 11th to the 13th December 1973. The Prime Minister and I have been keeping in continuous touch with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and whatever assistance was required by them to restore normalcy was made available.

According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh these disturbances arose out of a minor scuffle in Gudri Bazar on the 11th December, 1973 between some persons belonging to different communities. The miscreants aggravated the situation resulting in damage to three shops by arson and loot and one person being killed. When the police reached the scene of occurrence, the rioters were indulging in extensive brickbattling and violence and to disperse them, the police had to resort to firing. Curfew was immediately imposed in the Police Station Kotwall and Delhi Gate areas from 1.30 P.M. to 4 P.M. and, later in the afternoon dusk to dawn curfew was imposed in the whole town. During the night of December 11-12, 1973 no untoward incident happened but there were some serious incidents on the morning of 12th necessitating the reimposition of curfew until 4 P.M. Between 4 P.M. and 5.30 P.M. when curfew was relaxed, some incidents of stabbing again took place. Curfew was again clamped down in the whole town on the evening of 12th. However on the night of 12th, there were serious incidents of violation of curfew and vio-

lence. On one occasion when the police reached the spot, they were surrounded by a mob and attacked. They had to open fire to disperse the mob. During the period from 10 to 11-30 A.M. on 13th, when curfew was relaxed, some instances of stabbing came to be reported. The town continued to be under curfew during the remainder of the day on 13th. The situation started improving thereafter though as a precautionary measure, curfew orders continued to be in force in the affected parts of the city on the 14th and 15th. Thereafter, partially, the curfew has been gradually removed. That is, on the 16th, curfew was lifted for three hours; on the 17th the curfew was lifted for six hours from 8.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M., in the two police station areas. In the rest of the city, curfew has been lifted from 8.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M. No incident has been reported after the 13th and the situation is stated to be normal.

It is a matter of deep regret that 8 persons have lost their lives in the disturbances. Over 70 persons including 25 of the police personnel are reported to have received injuries. Monetary relief is being provided to the families of the victims of the riots. Adequate police reinforcements have been made available to the district authorities and it has been impressed upon them by the State Government that firm and prompt action should be taken to maintain normalcy in the town. All other District Magistrates in Uttar Pradesh have also been alerted by the State Government to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautionary measures.

17.45. hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ACQUISITION OF
ALCOCK ASHDOWN COMPANY
LTD.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI T. A. PAI): Speaker, Sir.

The High Court of Bombay met today to consider the Receiver's proposal for confirmation of sale on the basis of bids received for the different properties of Alcock Ashdown in Bombay and Bhavnagar. An affidavit has been filed on behalf of the Government of India that, in view of the Act having come into force the context for confirmation of sale did not survive. The Court agreed with the view and said that there was no question of confirmation of sale in the context of the Act which had been passed by Parliament in terms of which all properties in the two undertakings had vested in Government of India. Some creditors wanted to see the Act in order that they could raise their objections as to its validity. The Court said that it would hear their objections only on the 19th of December. A specific authorisation under Section 5(2) authorising Mazagon Docks to take over the properties from the Official Receiver on behalf of the Government of India has been issued.

श्री मधु लियये (बांका) : सभापति महोदय, जिस हरिजन को जिन्दा जलाया गया था, उस पर दीक्षित जी का बयान कब होगा। उन्होंने कहा है कि एक ही का आदेश हुआ था। 18 दिन पहले जो शुक्रवार था, मैंने अगले सप्ताह की कार्यवाही, बिजनेस पर बोलते हुए कहा था। 18 दिन इंतजार करते हुए हो चुके हैं—क्या हरिजन की जान की कोई कीमत नहीं?

गृह मंत्री (श्री उभासचंकर दीक्षित) : मुझे पता नहीं है—अध्यक्ष महोदय की ओर से क्या निर्देश हुआ है। मैं पता लगाऊंगा और जैसा उन्होंने कहा होगा वैसा करूंगा।

श्री मधु लियये : हम तो जानकारी चाहते हैं।